



Veteran

VOICES

“Serving Those Who Served”

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www.dva.wa.gov

Vol. 2 Issue 9

September 2001

First Grand Opening Celebration in 90 Years

Spokane Veterans Home - Product of decade-long preparation



The Spokane Veterans Home will host a grand opening celebration on September 28 from 10:00AM - 12:00PM. Veterans, family members, friends and the surrounding community are invited to attend. Festivities will include a color guard, military band, guest speakers, a formal ribbon cutting and tours of the new facility.

The Spokane facility will allow the Washington Department of Veterans Affairs to serve eastern Washington veterans nearer to their home community than in the past. According to John King, WDVA Director, “We’ve often had to ask the veteran to come to us, either to the Soldiers Home or the Veterans Home. Bringing services into communities is an idea whose time has come and something we are striving for in every aspect of the services we provide.”

The Spokane facility is a major milestone for veterans in Washington. The state boasts a long rich history of serving veterans and their families. Beginning in the Orting Valley with the Washington Soldier’s

Home and Colony in 1891, the state quickly saw the necessity of increasing its capacity to serve veterans and responded in 1910 by opening the Washington Veterans Home at Retsil.

Both homes were initially opened to serve aging Civil War veterans who had been lured to Washington State with promises of homesteads, railroad jobs and gold. Through the years, the homes have seen changes in their looks and the era of their residents, moving from the Civil War homesteaders to WWII, Korean War & Vietnam War veterans. But weathering time and change, the veterans homes themselves have remained an integral part of each local community.

A long awaited chapter in the history of the homes is the opening of the Spokane Veterans Home. Already, applications for admission have been received and the number has steadily increased as the opening date draws near.

Kathy Magonigle, the Spokane Veterans Home Administrator, is confident the years of preparation will pay off

and is looking forward to fostering the relationship between WDVA, the Spokane VA Medical Center and other public and private entities. “Not only is this a wonderful opportunity for us to bring services directly to eastern Washington veterans, it is also a timely occasion to work with other organizations and continue piloting programs such as tele-medicine, helping us bring the very best care to the veterans who need it most.”

The Spokane Veterans Home will begin admitting residents on October 1 and can accommodate up to 100 veterans needing skilled nursing care. “I can’t begin to name each person who has participated in making this historic effort a reality,” said King, “but

I’d like to say again - Thank You - to each and every individual whose dedication for the past ten years has significantly influenced this great achievement for all of Washington’s veterans.”



For admission information to the Spokane Veterans Home, call 1-877-VETS-R-US.

For general information on the Spokane Veterans Home, call (509) 344-5770.



The Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs
cordially invites you to attend the

Grand Opening of the Spokane Veterans Home

***September 28, 2001
10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
222 E. Fifth St.
Spokane, Washington***

Keynote Speaker: Congressman George Nethercutt

Shuttle from Costco parking lot

Refreshments provided

What’s Inside...

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Working toward change through partnerships



Strength in numbers – a statement we’ve all heard – but I’m frequently reminded of the significance this strength has for veterans in Washington state.

Stop for a moment and think back to the last veterans’ event you either participated in or attended. Would the event have been successful without the assistance and support of many hardworking individuals? Would the impact felt by attendees have been the same were it not for the initiative of numerous strong willed veterans?

Veterans are unique in their ability to work together and it’s a uniqueness not often celebrated. Let me give you some examples of events or organizations made possible only because veterans are willing to partner with each other to help make significant changes in the lives of other veterans and their families

♦ **Tahoma National Cemetery** Volunteers: “Veteran Guardian Angels” are representatives of various veteran service organizations who tirelessly make themselves

available to provide Washington’s veterans with the final honor and respect they deserve. Nationwide, the issue of providing appropriate military honors for veterans has the Pentagon asking for assistance from local veterans organizations. Thanks to a partnership already in place at our national cemetery, many veterans in Washington need not worry.

♦ **VISN 20:** Consisting of Washington, Alaska, Oregon and Idaho, the VISN 20 is a highly successful partnership of states. Its focus is on caring for veterans and other beneficiaries, building healthy communities, and becoming a leader in education and research. Because of the success of this group, the Federal VA granted the VISN 20 the only Assisted Living Pilot Program in the nation. Made possible by the Veterans Millennium Health Care Act, this program should be implemented by October 2001.

♦ **Honoring Veterans:** The Vietnam Wall Experience 2001, was successful because of the relentless dedication of local veterans. The WWII Oral History documentary is already being hailed as an excellent educational tool for public schools. These are only two of the countless examples of partnerships yielding positive results.

♦ **Veteran Information & Assistance Fairs:** Statewide, Veteran Community Service Coordinators are working through partnerships with VSOs and local communities to

provide needed services to eligible veterans and their families. Fairs have been scheduled throughout the state to bring information from various service providers directly to veterans. Local partnerships such as these are an exciting way to ‘serve those who served’.

♦ **National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs:** During mid-September 2001, the nations state directors of veterans affairs will gather in Seattle. Their mission is to strengthen states’ effectiveness in working with the Federal VA. NASDVA, as the organization is known, also seeks to facilitate reciprocal state services to provide uniformity, equality, efficiency and effectiveness in providing services to veterans in all the states and territories.

While we may be on the cutting edge of working toward change through partnerships, we are not alone. Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Anthony Principi stated in his nomination address his desire to enlist VSOs as, “...partners in developing solutions as well as identifying problems”.

Henry Ford said “Coming together is a beginning, keeping together is progress, and working together is success.”

Every organization involved in working with veterans has a mission to take care of those who served our nation and provided our freedom. Working together as partners, we can make a difference.

John King



Kathleen Magonigle was recently selected as the Administrator of the new Spokane Veterans Home. Beginning August 6, Magonigle became responsible for oversight and management of the 100 bed facility in Spokane.

Magonigle served for five years as the Vice President of St. Luke’s Extended Care Center, the facility that has been selected as the new Spokane Veterans Home. Her responsibilities included management of the center, providing skilled nursing and subacute medical and acute rehabilitation to the Spokane Community. Prior to her role there, Magonigle served at Deaconess Medical Center as the nursing manager of the cardiac/respiratory and cardiac rehabilitation program for five years and as an intensive care nurse for over thirteen years.

Other professional experience includes being a guest speaker, teaching at local universities and being an advisory group support person for multiple community health projects.

Kathleen holds a Bachelor of Science in Nursing and a Masters in Business Administration. She has been a professional nurse for 27 years.



Lisa Claflin has been named director of nursing services for the Spokane Veterans Home effective Aug. 20, 2001.

Claflin served four years as a military medic in the United States Air Force and completed her military career by retiring as a Master Sergeant in the Washington Air National Guard, after serving twenty-one years. While in the National Guard, Claflin served as an emergency medical technician and earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Washington State University.

After retiring from military service, Claflin served in the critical care areas at Holy Family Hospital and Deaconess Medical Center. She later worked as a staff nurse and then as the Director of Nursing Services for St. Luke’s Extended Care, the home selected as the new Spokane Veterans Home.

Korean War Veterans “Not Forgotten”

On July 21, the Korean War Memorial in Olympia overflowed with those paying tribute during the eighth annual wreathlaying ceremony.

The Washington National Guard Colorguard and the McChord AFB Honor Guard were joined by the Gospel Outreach choir of Olympia, whose musical tribute enhanced the solemn occasion. Dignitaries, veterans organizations, community members and young people laid wreaths and flowers to honor the

534 Washington residents who died during the Korean War.

MG John A. Hemphill, USA (ret) unveiled the name of Sgt. Joseph William Hynes of Tacoma. The family of Sgt. Hynes was escorted by Col. Steven Bailey, commander of the 3rd Brigade, 2nd Inf. at I Corps and Ft. Lewis, to lay flowers at the memorial.

An interpretive dance tribute, performed by visiting students of the Korean American Cultural Foundation, depicted the struggles of a country torn in half and the mourning and pain inflicted during this time in history.

2001 Lakefair Queen Beccy Gordon and Foundation students Da-He-Park and Da-Youn-Lee read LTC Richard Kirk’s poem “I Am Not Forgotten”, as the Gospel Outreach choir sang “Amazing Grace”. Park and Lee – both seven years old – read the poem in Korean, and although smaller in stature than the podium before them, conveyed a powerful message.



The official wreathlaying party approach the memorial, escorted by the McChord AFB Honor Guard..



Marguerite Hopper - the widow of Sgt. Joseph William Hynes, whose name was added to the Korean War Veterans Memorial - places a bouquet of flowers as her family watches.



An interpretive dance tribute, performed by visiting students of the Korean American Cultural Foundation, depicts the struggles of a country torn in half and the mourning and pain inflicted during this time in history.

Vietnam Wall Experience 2001

“IN HONOR OF THE MEN AND WOMEN OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES WHO SERVED IN THE VIETNAM WAR. THE NAMES OF THOSE WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES AND OF THOSE WHO REMAIN MISSING ARE INSCRIBED...”

Preamble on The Wall

For three days and three nights in July, a ¾ replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. stood open to the public at Sunset Hills Memorial Park in Bellevue.

Organizational meetings began last April, under the leadership of LTC Mike Rogers, USA (ret). Hundreds of volunteers donated countless hours of their time to ensure the thousands of Washington residents who attended were offered an experience they wouldn’t soon forget.



important. For the mother who has never had the opportunity to see and touch her lost child’s name etched on the black granite that honors his service, this visit is profound. The healing and closure that takes place is truly inspiring. For the wives, children, siblings and other family and friends the experience is without parallel.

24 hours a day for three days the Wall stands in its somber beauty. Many visit late at night or in the early morning hours to somehow find their peace at the Wall or in its shadow.

All Americans were touched in some way by the war in Vietnam. A visit to the Wall somehow offers perspective and comfort to each person and point of view.

For the veterans this site becomes hallowed ground, the Wall evokes distant memories of the

horror of war, and the brotherhood of young men welded together eternally by its pain and lonely duty. For them it is a sacred place of honor....

The Vietnam Wall Experience 2001

Vietnam veterans Roger and Pam Young of Seattle hosted the official web site for the Vietnam Wall Experience 2001. Photos and stories relating to the event can be viewed at <http://members.aol.com/bear317/wall.htm>.



WDVA Deputy Director John Lee reads the Governor’s Proclamation as part of the weekend tributes.



Richard Marin – Governor’s Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee member – provides the Invocation for Saturday’s ceremony.



Richard Keeton releases white doves in honor of POW/MIA’s still missing.

The following is being reprinted with permission from The Vietnam Wall Experience 2001 committee:

The Vietnam Wall Experience is just that, an experience. Because most people will never have the opportunity to visit our nation’s capital and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, a chance to see and touch this ¾ size replica is very

VA Establishes Homeless Veterans Council

A 15-member Homeless Veterans Council will be established by the VA to evaluate policies and programs affecting homeless veterans. The committee will include health care specialists, benefits counselors, mental illness and substance abuse professionals, education and training experts and social workers knowledgeable about permanent and transitional housing. The group will include at least one veteran who had been homeless and had benefited from homeless programs.

The “VA Advisory Council on Homelessness Among Veterans” will be charged with looking at health care and benefits programs to make certain the estimated 200,000 veterans who are homeless each night have the best services available.

Expected to be in operation for at least six years, the council will also be charged with making recommendations to the VA secretary and other senior VA leaders.

Source: VA Press Release

Homeless Programs in Washington State

In Washington State, programs such as the Homeless Veteran Reintegration Project (HVRP), serving Seattle and the Puget Sound Region and the Veterans Independent Enterprises of Washington (VIEW) are helping get homeless veterans off the street and back to being productive members of society.

- ◆ King County HVRP - 1-206-296-7576
- ◆ Veterans Independent Enterprises of WA (VIEW) - 1-253-922-5802

VA Creates Regional Liaisons To Veterans Groups

WASHINGTON — Secretary of Veterans Affairs Anthony J. Principi announced today the creation of a new network of regional liaisons who will work with state and local elements of veterans service organizations (VSOs).

“VSOs are our partners in developing solutions, as well as in identifying problems,” Principi said. “By strengthening our ties to the VSOs at the state and local levels, we can improve VA’s service to America’s veterans.”

The six regional liaisons will be stationed throughout the country according to veteran population and geographical areas. They will be located in Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) facilities.

Working with community-based veteran organizations, including state directors of veterans affairs, the liaisons will attend conventions, meetings and other functions to provide a communications channel between veterans and VA. They will also coordinate outreach activities to inform veterans and the public of VA programs.

Source: VA Press Release.

Federal Legislative Update

H.R. 801, the Veterans’ Survivor Benefits Improvements Act of 2001, created new life insurance and health care benefits for up to two million eligible spouses and children of veterans.

- ◆ Expands Servicemembers Group Life Insurance (SGLI) to military spouses (up to \$100,000) and children (\$10,000).
- ◆ Makes last year’s increase of the SGLI maximum (\$250,000) retroactive to October 1, 2000 to cover military personnel who have died in recent service-related tragedies between October 1, 2000 and April 1, 2001.
- ◆ Provides the over-65 spouses of severely disabled veterans enrolled in CHAMPVA the same health benefit presently provided to military retirees enrolled in TRICARE.
- ◆ Signed into law by President Bush June 5, 2001 as Public Law No. 107-14.

H.R. 811, the Veterans Hospital Emergency Repair Act, would authorize \$550 million over fiscal years 2002 and 2003 to repair dilapidated and obsolete VA medical facilities.

- ◆ VA Secretary may choose individual projects recommended by VA’s capital investments board. (VA has compiled a list of 20 such projects.)
- ◆ Construction projects that address patient safety, privacy, earthquake protection, and accommodation for disabled veterans will get top priority under H.R. 811.
- ◆ Funding for fiscal year 2002 included in H.R. 2620, the VA-HUD Appropriations Act.
- ◆ Passed the House on March 27, 2001; pending in the Senate.

H.R. 1291, the 21st Century Montgomery GI Bill Enhancement Act, would nearly double the monthly education benefit over the next three years – an increase of 70 percent.

- ◆ The fiscal year 2002 Budget Resolution accommodates the proposed three-year phased increase in monthly education benefits from \$650 to \$1,100.
- ◆ The total annual education benefit for veterans participating in the program would go from \$23,400 to \$39,600.
- ◆ Education benefits would continue to be adjusted for inflation after the three-year increase is fully phased in.
- ◆ Passed the House on June 19, 2001; pending in the Senate.

H.R. 2540, the Veterans Benefits Act of 2001, would provide a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA), effective December 1, 2001, increasing the compensation of disabled veterans and their survivors by \$2.7 billion over five years. (The VA estimates the COLA will be 2.5 percent.)

- ◆ Add Diabetes Mellitus (Type 2) to the list of service-connected illnesses presumed for Vietnam Veterans exposed to herbicide agents.
- ◆ Expand, effective April 1, 2002, the definition of undiagnosed illnesses for Persian Gulf War veterans to include chronic fatigue syndrome, fibromyalgia, or other hard-to-diagnose illnesses.
- ◆ Permit the VA Secretary to protect the service-connected disability grant of a Persian Gulf War veteran who participates in VA-sponsored medical research and is subsequently diagnosed with a specific disease.
- ◆ Authorize the VA Secretary to pay unclaimed National Service Life Insurance and U.S. Government Life Insurance proceeds to an alternate beneficiary when the first beneficiary cannot be located within three years of the insured’s death.
- ◆ Extend to 2005 the VA’s direct home loan language program for Native American veterans living on tribal trust lands.
- ◆ Require the VA Secretary to establish a two-year pilot expansion of the available hours of the VA’s 1-800 toll-free information service, and to assess the demand for the service.
- ◆ Passed the House on July 31, 2001; pending in the Senate.

HCR 56, Expressing the sense of the Congress regarding National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day.

- ◆ Pays tribute, on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the December 7, 1941, attack on Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, to the U.S. citizens who died in the attack, and to the members of the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association.
- ◆ 5/21/2001—Passed House, without amendment; Pending in the Senate

Source: House Committee on Veterans Affairs

National D-Day Museum to Dedicate Pacific Wing

The National D-Day Museum, located in New Orleans, Louisiana, is the only museum in the United States dedicated entirely to the remembrance of all the amphibious invasions of World War II.

On December 7, 2001, the Museum will dedicate its Pacific Wing to honor veterans of the Pacific invasion forces, their families and the home front workers. This Wing will commemorate the courage of the men and women who fought in the Pacific and those who supported their efforts on the Home Front.

For more information about the dedication of the Pacific Wing, call Bill Detweiler, The National D-Day Museum’s Veterans Liaison Officer, at 504-834-1700 or send e-mail to PNCWMD@aol.com. Additional information may be obtained by visiting their website at www.ddaymuseum.org.

Veterans’ Millennium Health Care and Benefits Act

Implementation Update

Public Law 106-117, the Veterans Millennium Health Care and Benefits Act, was the most significant health care legislation enacted by Congress for veterans in a number of years. The Millennium Act authorized the VA to provide a continuum of long-term care services, reimburse veterans’ emergency care, pharmacy and outpatient copays, and many other issues.

In May of 2001, several members of Congress signed a letter to President Bush expressing concern about the length of time that has lapsed between the bill being signed into law and its full implementation. The letter urged the President to take action and fully implement the provisions contained in P.L. 106-117.

Below is an outline of the major portions of the Millennium Act and the implementation status of each.

<u>Long Term Care</u> Mandatory Nursing Home Eligibility for 70% service connected disability or in need of LTC for SC conditions.	Implemented by policy directive 2000-007 in 2/2000 and expanded by 2000-044 on 11/2000.
<u>Pilot Programs</u> Assisted Living Services – 1 pilot	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• VISN 20 (encompassing Washington, Alaska, Idaho & Oregon) Assisted Living Program selected and notified on 1/10/2001.• The VISN has encountered contracting issues and expects to resolve them and initiate the program in October 2001.• 3 annual evaluation reports (2 progress, 1 final) by selected HSR&D Center.• Report to Congress due by 1/2004.
<u>State Home Const. Grants</u> Revises the priority system for the award of grants. For bed-producing projects, requires priority ranking based on relative need for adding new beds.	Regulations forwarded to Office of General Council (OGC) on 4/26. Forwarded to Secretary of the VA for review & approval on 6/4. Submitted to Office of Management & Budget (OMB) for review on 6/7. Interim final rules published in Federal Register on June 26. This provides States with guidance for making grant applications for FY2002 funding –due by 8/15/2001.
<u>Emergency Care</u> Authorizes VA to reimburse certain veterans as a payor of last resort for emergency care.	The authority will apply retroactively to 5/29/2000. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Interim Guidance, IL 10-2000-005, issued 7/20/2000.• Revised regulations forwarded to OMB 4/11/2001.• OMB has indicated approval of the Interim Final Regulation. The regulation was published in the Federal Register on July 11 and becomes effective on July 19. Claims processing begins in early August.
<u>Medication</u> Pharmacy Co-Pay - Authorizes VA to increase the amount and to establish maximum monthly and annual pharmacy co-pay amounts for individual veterans.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• VHA forwarded draft regulation for a \$7.00 co-pay to OGC on 5/29, sent to OGC for review & approval on 6/5, and approved & forwarded to OMB on 6/20. The regulation was cleared by OMB and was published in the Federal Register on July 16 for the initial 60 day public comment period.• The compressed timeline for the regulation to be effective is December 1, 2001.
<u>Outpatient Co-Pay</u> Authorizes VA to set the outpatient co-pay for each visit.	The Secretary has been briefed on options for changing the current outpatient co-pay. Regulations to make the recommended changes are under development. Our goal is to provide draft regulations to OMB in August 2001. Due to the regulatory timeline, it is likely to be early 2002 before these changes can be implemented.
<u>Eligibility for Combat Injured Veterans</u> Establishes specific eligibility and placement in enrollment category 3 for Purple Heart awardees.	Implemented this change by policy directive in 2/2000.
<u>PTSD & Substance Use Disorders Treatment Programs</u> Requires FY 2000 allocation of \$15.0 million above FY 99 expenditure levels (adjusted for increased costs).	Funds distributed – 1/26/2001. Report to Congress signed & dispatched 2/15/2001. <i>Prepared by: Legislative Programs Office (10C1)</i>



Federal VA to Speed Claims of Veterans Over Age 70

“America didn’t have to wait when this brave generation was called to duty. Our older veterans shouldn’t wait in their hour of need while we make necessary improvements to speed up decisions on all veterans’ applications,” said Anthony Principi – Secretary of VA.

According to Principi, a special unit has been assembled in Cleveland to expedite some of the oldest backlogged claims still waiting for review. Claims for veterans over the age of 70 will have top priority.

According to federal statistics, these veterans are dying at a rate of 1,369 each day and have a typical life expectancy of less than 10 years.

Most of the backlog are “re-opened” claims for service connected conditions that have worsened as the veteran has aged. The 57 regional VA offices have been instructed to pull claims for veterans over the age of 70 which have been pending for one year or more. It is estimated there are 6,000 such claims across the country. In addition to this task, considered the nation’s top priority, the VA will then move to the other longest

pending claims in the VA system, estimated to be 17,000 additional claims.
The VA has an estimated 668,000 claims awaiting an initial decision or appeal. As a result of new legislation and regulations, Principi authorized the hiring of 1,200 new employees earlier in the year. Even after the backlog of long-pending claims of older veterans is reduced, VA will keep in place new rules to raise the priority of all applications of veterans who are age 70 or older.
Source: VA Press Release



The DAV Transportation Network

www.dav.org/volunteers/trans_nw.html



Many vets with no way to get to Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical facilities for needed treatment, have found assistance from the DAV organization.

They're men and women who answered our country's call in times of war. Many lost limbs, sight, hearing, or good health. They may live a great distance

from a VA hospital. Many survive on small fixed incomes, finding the cost of transportation to a VA hospital is simply too high.

They're left with two choices. Go without needed treatments, or skimp on food and other necessities to pay for transportation.

Vet's disabled in our nation's service should never face such choices. So DAV and Auxiliary volunteers responded, driving vets to and from VA hospitals and clinics. Other grateful Americans are helping too.

It's all part of the DAV Transportation Network, administered by DAV Hospital Service Coordinators (HSCs) at the VA's 172 medical centers. The DAV has also donated vans, where needed, to make the program work.

Each DAV van driver is a volunteer who does not receive payment for the services they provide. With the volume and diversity of veterans served by this program - the VA and DAV National Headquarters have worked collaboratively to develop the following Rules and Regulations:

- The DAV van driver is not to lift or attend medically to any patient;
- The DAV van driver is only permitted to stop the van for rest stops and/or emergencies and to pickup and discharge passengers. Passengers should not request the driver to make side trips to take care of their personal business;
- Passengers are not permitted to smoke, chew tobacco, drink alcohol, use foul language or bring weapons, drugs, or any illegal substance on the van. Further, the van driver may not provide transportation to any veteran who is intoxicated, abusive or poses a threat to the driver or other passengers on the van;
- Passengers should not engage in any activity that will distract the drivers attention;
- Passengers should wear seat belts at all times. Any passenger refusing to buckle-up will be denied transportation on the van;
- All trash must be placed in the proper trash receptacle
- Individuals other than the veteran will be permitted to ride in the van with the veteran in only two cases. Any exceptions to this policy must be authorized by the patients attending physician:
 1. a veteran's spouse who has a "Spouse Permission to Travel" slip from the patients doctor, or
 2. a caregiver who is authorized by the VA to provide the veteran with "Aid and Attendance" ;
- Patients being discharged or granted passes may be transported on a DAV van during the van's trip back to its home city only if space is available. The patient must be ready to leave when the van departs the VA Medical Center;
- Patients should be dressed and ready to leave for the hospital at the time specified. The driver cannot wait for patients. It is the responsibility of the veteran or his/her family member to contact the DAV HSC as soon as possible regarding appointment cancellations or changes;

- Only articles small enough to be held on the veteran's lap or put under the seat will be transported in the DAV van;
- The driver may refuse to transport any veteran who he feels is too ill to ride the van, or the driver may request a written statement from a VA physician stating it's permissible for the veteran to travel; and
- Patients utilizing the DAV Transportation Network will not be eligible to receive reimbursement for travel expenses (M-1, Part 1, Chapter 5).

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DAV National Web Site:
<http://www.dav.org/>

American Veterans

America's Disabled Veterans



Washington's DAV — Here to Help

The Disabled American Veterans of the World War was founded on Sept. 25, 1920, forming an organization dedicated to the needs of disabled veterans of WWI. With the onset of WWII, the name was changed to Disabled American Veterans, and in October 1944, the DAV continued to evolve by introducing the National Service Office Training Program at American University in Washington, D.C.

Today, the million-member, of the embrace a common DAV mission to represent each of America's 2.1 million disabled veterans, their families and survivors. By providing free, professional assistance in obtaining benefits and services earned through military service, the organization strives to meet their needs.

Available to any honorably discharged veteran with a disability incurred in wartime military service, today's DAV membership in Washington totals more than 20,000 members with an additional 2,200 Auxiliary members.

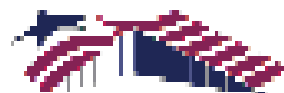
Providing a variety of services to disabled veterans and their families, the largest of the programs is the Transportation Network. During 2000, Washington's DAV provided transportation to and from the five major VA Medical Centers in the state, driving in excess of 759,664 miles and providing service to more than 18,000 disabled veterans.

In addition to the 38,693 hours volunteered within the Transportation Network, Washington's DAV volunteers contributed doubled those hours by providing service to veterans at the five VA hospitals, the Washington Veterans Home in Retsil, the Washington Soldiers Home and Colony in Orting, and at local nursing homes.

The Tahoma National Cemetery is another of the DAV's volunteer programs, providing an honor guard on a regular rotating basis, with individual members also spending time in the Public Information Center at the cemetery.

Harold Wiley, DAV Department of Washington Commander for 2001-2002, and his wife Kathy believe strongly in the DAV. "We're here to help," said Kathy Wiley, who is also State Adjutant for the Auxiliary.

"If you have a question, if you have a problem, call us," she said. "We have to get the message out that we help all veterans equally, not just those that have a Purple Heart. Harold spent almost two years in Vietnam and is a combat service connected disabled veteran. Helping other veterans is a personal mission for him and for me. DAV has 20,000 members in Washington, but we have another 20,000 disabled veterans in this state who are not members. We have to reach them."



VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL FUND

PUT A FACE WITH A NAME

A NONPROFIT CAMPAIGN

kinko's
we're doing more.

"Put a Face with a Name" is a non-profit campaign developed by Kinko's and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund to honor those who lost their lives in the Vietnam War or who remain missing in action. The program enables anyone to use Kinko's resources free of charge to post a photo remembrance to The Virtual Wall (thevirtualwall.org), the online version of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. that memorializes the war's 58,226 fallen service members.

From Sept. 12 through Veterans Day, Nov. 11, 2001, Kinko's and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund invite friends and loved ones of those listed on The Vietnam Wall to bring a photograph to any of the more than 1,000 Kinko's branches across the country.

Free of charge, participants will be able to scan and upload those photos to The Virtual Wall using Kinko's computer services and co-worker assistance.

Once the process is complete, the photo remembrance can be viewed from any computer with Internet access within 72 hours. To make sure every participant has access to viewing their posting, Kinko's is providing an information kit which includes a free return visit certificate allowing them a chance to view the remembrance photo on The Virtual Wall.

Anyone who would like to post a photo remembrance for one of the 58,226 men and women listed on The Wall is invited to participate in this campaign by visiting one of Kinko's 1000 branches or by using a personal computer with scanning and Internet capabilities.

To locate a nearby Kinko's branch or to learn more about this campaign, participants can call 1-800-2-KINKOS or visit www.kinkos.com.

New Approach Turning Homes Into

Residents and staff at The Washington Soldiers Home and Colony in Orting and The Veterans Home in Retsil have spent the last year initiating many new ideas that are part of an “eden-like” approach to long-term care.

The changes involve incorporating animals, plants and children into the environment of daily life for residents.

According to Jerry Towne and Bob Jones, superintendents at the homes, the benefits of this approach are proving to be exciting and heart-warming. They are helping to lessen the three greatest enemies of long-term care facilities: loneliness, helplessness and boredom.

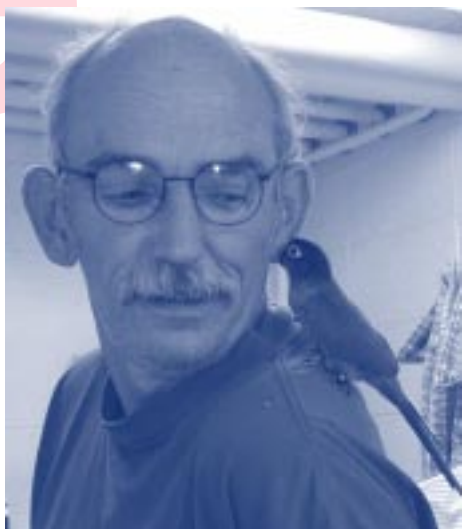
“Animals and plants are slowly being integrated into the facilities,” said Orting’s social work manager, Sharon Rinehart. “These additions are providing residents with something to take care of and care about. They feel needed.”

Plants – such as weeping figs, peace lillies and anthuriums – that reduce toxins and bacteria in the air have been provided for residents at high risk for infection. In addition, these plants are being placed in areas where residents gather.

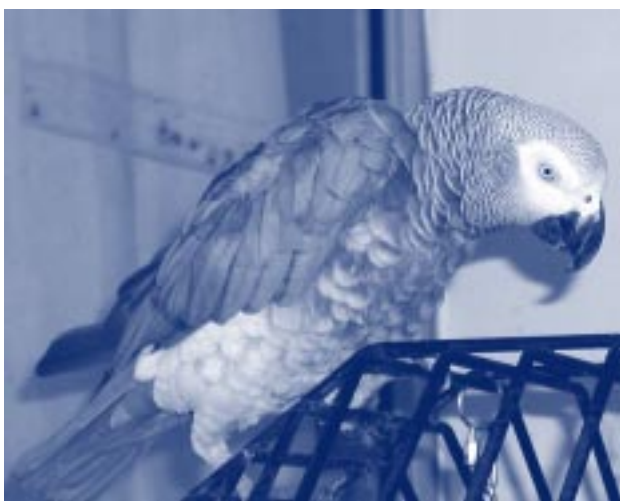
Animals and birds are now common sights at both facilities, with residents holding contests to name them.



Frank LaRouche enjoys having Sissy visit him each day.



Dale Colbert takes his bird, Homer, wherever he goes.



Raider, an African Gray Parrot lives in the Activity Therapy Building for all residents to visit. He even talks with some.



Social Services Manager Sharon Rinehart with the love birds at Orting.



Another aspect of the eden approach will be to give each resident their own mailbox. Bill Donald is finishing the mailboxes originally built at the Rainier School, by giving them a coat of stain.

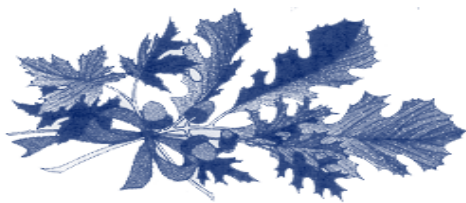


According to research conducted at Southwest Texas State University’s Institute for Quality Improvement in Long-Term Health Care, these eden-like additions produced significant findings during a two-year study of six nursing homes applying the approach.

The first included a 33 percent reduction in “as needed” medications, such as anti-depressants and anti-

anxiety prescriptions. Moreover, they showed a 60 percent decline in the presence of pressure sores, a 53 percent reduction in the use of safety restraints, and a 44 percent decrease in employee absenteeism.

“So far, we haven’t gathered scientific data to confirm results,” said Rinehart, “but, the enthusiasm and participation shown by residents and staff seems to indicate we’re on the right track.”



(Below) Residents at Orting also like to feed the numerous gray squirrels living around the grounds. This feeder looks like its being guarded by Tommy the cat however. (Right) Feeding the squirrels by hand is the preferred method.



“Home-Sweet-Home”



Tommy cuddles up to Mr. Willingham.



Ken Mosier shows off his anthurium plant.



Catherine Shaw, Activity Director, provides plants for residents at Retsil.



Miss Kitty keeps watch at the nurses station in building 10.



Duane McCune was the one who named the two love birds at Orting; Tinkerbelle and Pretty Boy.



The residents' dog at Retsil is Goldie. She was adopted about four years ago. Wayne Gorski keeps her well groomed.

Street Talk... with residents of the WA Veterans Home

Of all your pets, which one was the most memorable?



I had chickens. They're more intelligent than most animals. When you clean their pen, they sing and cluck. But, cats make me laugh. No matter how depressed I am, they cheer me up.

--William G. Brown



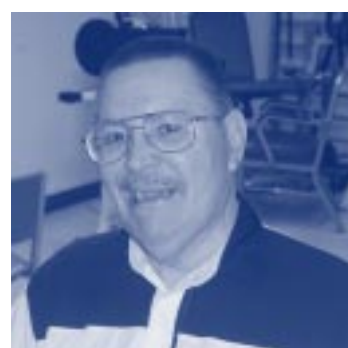
I grew up on a dairy farm and won't ever forget Bitty The milk machine wouldn't stay on her, so we had to milk her by hand. And my cocker spaniel Duke.

--Ron Losinger



Baby, my cat. She wandered into my house half-dead and we had her 9 years. When I had neck surgery, my wife would say, "Baby, sleep with Daddy" and Baby would lay with me until I went to sleep.

--William Heard



My dog Tex. He was a German Shepard mix and runt of the litter. He could climb ladders and round up the cows for milking. One day he got hit by a car, couldn't be fixed. My dad told my brother Mike and me it was our pet and our responsibility to end his pain. My brother Mike was older and he took care of it.

--James Kelly



My Cassie – Cassandra. She's a red, long-haired dachshund and my niece has her now. She'd lick my face and I'd tell her to stop it. Then she'd lick it some more. She likes chasing lizards. She's never caught one yet, but she's never given up.

--John Owens

Veterans Community Services Coordinators

As part of WDVA’s ongoing effort to bring services to veterans in the community, Information and Assistance Fairs are scheduled throughout the summer and fall in order to provide veterans the opportunity to obtain information on service-connected disability, vocational rehabilitation, VA healthcare enrollment, survivor and burial benefits and other services.

Specific times and locations are listed below. For more information, contact the appropriate VCSC or call toll-free at 1-800-562-2308.

Date/Time	Location	VCSC
Sept 20 9 am - 4 pm	Kittitas Co. Veterans Outreach Office Ellensburg	Lonnie James
Sept 27 11 am - 5 pm	F.O.E. #2809 Hall 4425 Burnham Dr Gig Harbor	Lynda Reese
Oct 11 11 am - 6 pm	VFW Post #4760 Sequim	Lynda Reese
Oct 18 9 am - 2 pm	Burien Community Center 425 SW 144th St Burien, (206) 988-3700	Cherise McArthur
Oct 25 11 am - 6 pm	National Guard Armory Poulsbo	Lynda Reese
Oct 27 8 am - 4 pm	Marine Corps Res. Center Yakima	Lonnie James
Nov 10 9 am - 2 pm	Camp Murray Training Site, Bldg 33 Tacoma, (253) 512-8355	Cherise McArthur
Nov 15 / 11-6	Am Legion Post #26 Port Townsend	Lynda Reese

Who are the VCSCs?



Lonnie James

LONNIE D . JAMES
4th District - Serving Yakima, Kittitas, Grant, Chelan, Klickitat, Benton, Okanagon, Douglas and Franklin Counties.

Home Office:
1205 Cornell Ave., Yakima, Wa. 98902
Phone: 509-457-2151
Fax: 509-452-0164
Cell & Pager: 509-961-2629
E-mail address: ljames@nwinfo.net



Cherise McArthur

CHERISE MCARTHUR
9th District - Serving portions of Southern King, Western Pierce, and Thurston Counties along the I-5 corridor.

Bremerton Community Outreach Office
262 Burwell St., Bremerton, WA 98337
Phone: 360-478-4565
Fax: 360-478-6995
Pager: 1-877-747-3921
E-mail address: cherisem@dva.wa.gov



Lynda Reese

LYNDAM. REESE
6th District - Serving Clallam, Grays Harbor, Jefferson, Kitsap, Mason and a portion of Pierce Counties.

Bremerton Community Outreach Office
262 Burwell St., Bremerton, WA 98337
Phone: 360-478-4565
Fax: 360-478-6995
Pager: 1-877-747-2784
E-mail address: lynda@dva.wa.gov

Olympia Lakefair Provides Venue for VCSC

Veterans Community Service Coordinators (VCSC) are holding Veterans Information and Assistance Fairs throughout the state, and are always looking for new locations for the events.

During Olympia Lakefair’s “50’s In The Park” day, VCSC Cherise McArthur spent the day assisting seniors and veterans in understanding the options available to them at the Washington Veterans Home in Retsil, the Washington Soldiers Home and Colony in Orting, and the soon-to-be open Spokane Veterans Home.

“I’m willing to set up a display just about anywhere,” said McArthur. “As long as it provides an opportunity to reach veterans and their families, I want to be there.

“My job is to let them know we are available to help them, and we are continually adding to our list of community partners and resources as we learn to do it better.”



Women’s Wellness Fair

Who: Women who have served in the military

What: FREE Wellness Fair about women’s health and local resources

- * Women’s Health
- * Mental Health
- * Financial Benefits
- * Alternative Therapies
- * Beauty Care
- * Children’s Services
- * Support Groups
- * Free Refreshments

And Much More...

Where: Catholic Community Services
1323 South Yakima Avenue, Tacoma, WA

When: Saturday, September 29th, 2001
11:00 am – 4:00 pm

Why: To let you know what types of services and resources are available throughout Puget Sound

Come Join Us ★ Limited Childcare Available
For more information call 1-800-562-2308

Agency Participants include: Women Organizing Women, WA Dept. of Veterans Affairs, Catholic Community Services, VA Puget Sound Health Care System, Veterans Independent Enterprises of WA, Tacoma Vet Center, Pierce Co. Dept. of Public Health, King Co. Veterans Program, and a number of community providers and resources.

FREE • FREE • FREE • FREE • FREE • FREE • FREE • FREE • FREE • FREE •

Oral History of World War II Premiered

When We Were Kids, We Went To War, a miniseries of oral history interviews of Washington state WWII veterans and civilians, premiered Aug. 15. A select audience – including Lt. Gov. Brad Owen, members of the Legislature, officials from the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, members of the World War II Memorial Educational Foundation, and film participants – witnessed first hand the completed project, which has been in the making for the last five years.



The two-hour film, authorized under Public Law 112, Laws of 2000, mandates the teaching of WWII history in public schools. It will be delivered to each school district in Washington state for use during the 2001-2002 school year.

The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction will provide workshops for teachers using the film in their classrooms, according to SPI’s Social Studies/International Education Program Supervisor, Larry Strickland.

Karl Schmidt of Bristol Productions conducted more than 140 interviews in order to produce the completed project.

“World War II veterans and civilians want young people of today to understand the importance of learning from history,” said Bill Merifield, president of the WWII Memorial Educational Foundation.

“This history must not be repeated; there is an alternative to war.”


Additional copies of the film have been purchased by the Foundation and are available to the public, with proceeds going to the WWII Memorial Educational Foundation Scholarship Fund.

VHS Video Order Form

WHEN WE WERE KIDS...WE WENT TO WAR

An oral history of Washington State and the WWII era

First Copy	1	X	\$17.00	= \$17.00
Additional copies @ \$15.00		X	\$15.00	= _____
Shipping and handling (Please allow 2-3 weeks for delivery)			+	\$5.00
Total Cost			=	\$ _____
Name: _____		Please make checks or money orders payable to: WWII Memorial Educational Foundation 2401 Bristol Court SW Olympia, WA 98502 (360) 754-2133		
Address: _____				
City: _____ Zip: _____				
Phone: _____				

 **WWII Accounts Wanted by HBO**
With the beginning of HBO’s 10-part mini-series *Band of Brothers* in September, HBO will be collecting the personal experiences of all WWII vets. To submit your story, go to HBO’s Web site: www.hbo.com

Upcoming Events

Grand Opening – Lower Kittitas County Veterans Center – September 20, 2001
709 S. Pine St., Ellensburg, WA
POC: Kittitas County Commissioner Bill Hinkle (509) 962-7508

National POW/MIA Day – September 21, 2001
POW/MIA Association Ceremony 10 a.m.
Capitol Campus – Olympia, WA
POC: Darrell Pilat (253) 813-8441

Washington Memorial Cemetery – 3 pm
SeaTac, WA
POC: Richard Keeton (253) 922-2114

Grand Opening – Spokane Veterans Home
September 28, 2001 – 10 a.m. - Noon
222 East 5th Ave
Spokane, WA
POC: Kathy Magonigle (509)

Women’s Wellness Fair – Sept. 29, 2001
11 am – 4 pm
Catholic Community Services
1323 South Yakima Ave
Tacoma, WA
POC: Cherise McArthur (360) 478-4565

Vietnam Moving Wall – October 22-27
CWU, International Flag Pavilion
Ellensburg, WA

Auburn Parade – November 10, 2001
9:00 a.m.
POC:

Veterans Day November 11, 2001

Washington Veterans Home Ceremony
10:00 a.m. Auditorium - Open to the public
1141 Beach Dr., Retsil, WA
POC: Joan Newman (360) 895-4700

WA Soldiers Home & Colony Ceremony
2:00 p.m. Chilson Hall - Open to the public
1301 Orting-Kapowsin Hwy, Orting, WA
POC: Lynn Zemke (360) 893-4511

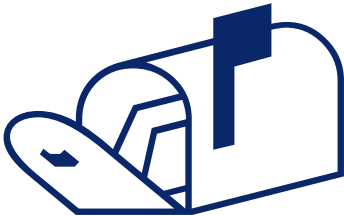
Olympia Parade & Ceremony
November 12, 2001 – 10 a.m.
POC: Ernie Elmore (360) 943-7366

1st Annual Veterans Appreciation Dinner
November 18, 2001 – 5:00 p.m.
Saint Martin’s Pavilion
POC: Lovel Briere (360) 491-9067, Rick Bonnell (360) 491-4959, Don Newbold (360) 493-1639

***Veteran Voices** is published quarterly for the veterans of Washington State.*

If you, or someone you know, would like to receive the Veteran Voices, please fill out the information below and mail it to:

Veteran Voices
PO Box 41150
Olympia, WA 98504-1150
or e-mail this information to colleen@dva.wa.gov



Name: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ zip: _____

Hats Off!



Congratulations to **LTC Mike Rogers** and his team of volunteers on their recent success with the 2001 Vietnam Wall Experience held at Sunset Hills Cemetery in Bellevue.

Rogers chaired the group, bringing thousands together for three days and nights to “seek comfort and solace” in the midst of ¾ size replica of the Vietnam Wall in Washington, D.C.

“102,000 people visited the Wall and I am grateful to each and every person who helped,” said Rogers. “Imagine how many hearts were touched, how many lives were lifted. It is easy to lose focus sometimes when you are involved in such a huge endeavor, but the real meaning is in the single family or veteran who is uplifted in their half-hour visit at the Wall. I realize that when you are there for hours each day – just doing the hard work – it can all seem to run together, but I want each volunteer to focus on that one person they remember seeing there, that one heart. God bless each of you for the love you offered. Because you were there, because you gave, that person may now be able to heal themselves first, and perhaps an entire family in sorrow later.”



Congratulations to **Vietnam Veterans of America’s Washington State Council President, Jimmy Grissom** on his recent election to a two-year term on VVA’s National Board of Directors. Grissom will serve as the Region Eight Director over Washington, Oregon, Alaska, Idaho, Montana and Wyoming, in addition to serving out his term as the Washington State Council President.

“I am committed to the Washington State Council,” said Grissom. “My loyalty and commitment to Washington State is too great for me to even consider resigning as the State Council President.”



The U.S. Postal Service issued a new commemorative postage stamp saluting the nations veterans and those who continue to serve in veterans service organizations and other veterans groups.

Released on May 23, the 34-cent self-adhesive stamp is now available at all post offices.

WDVA *Strategic Goals*

- ◆ Improve the quality of care and services for veterans and their families.
- ◆ Continue investing in staff, and provide the tools that result in high-quality services.
- ◆ Maximize resources to honor the nation’s debt to veterans.
- ◆ Review core processes to anticipate and influence future needs.

NOW, Eastern Washington Veterans have a place to call Home...

Are you searching for high-quality, long-term nursing or rehabilitative care? Are you a veteran?

If you’ve ever served in the Armed Forces, and are looking for long-term care, the Spokane Veterans Home may be a place for you to call home.

This newly built, state-of-the-art facility includes:

- ◆ Skilled Nursing Care
- ◆ Easy access to and from I-90
- ◆ Close proximity to Spokane’s major health care center
- ◆ Medical Transportation
- ◆ Physical Therapy
- ◆ Occupational Therapy
- ◆ Recreational Programs
- ◆ Religious Programs
- ◆ Social Services
- ◆ Laundry Services

To be eligible for admission to the Homes, *applicants must meet the following criteria:*
A veteran discharged under honorable conditions;
Washington state resident; and
Meet certain financial guidelines

*For an application or more information, call the Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs Centralized Admissions at: **1-877-VETS-R-US (1-877-838-7787)***

For employment opportunities call 1-800-562-2308
Visit the web site at www.dva.wa.gov

The Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs also operates two beautiful Homes in Western Washington: The Soldiers Home and Colony in Orting, located in the Puyallup Valley; and the Washington Veterans Home in Retsil, near Port Orchard overlooking Puget Sound. Both homes provide high-quality care for honorably discharged veterans.

“Serving Those Who Served”